

Friday, June 22, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
9:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Five "One-minutes" Per Side	

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **H. Res. 502–Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2771 – Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2008 (Rep. Cardoza-Rules):**
The structured rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Dennis Cardoza and consideration will proceed in the following order:
 - One hour of debate on the rule.
 - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
 - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**
- **H.R. 2771 – Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2008 (Rep. Wasserman Schultz-Appropriations):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Appropriations Committee Chair Rep. David Obey, or his designee, and will proceed in the following order:
 - One hour of debate on the bill.
 - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
 - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
 - Vote on passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**

Bill Summary and Key Issues

H.R. 2771 – Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2008

Bill Total

2007 Enacted: \$ 2.981 billion (without \$50 million in rescissions)

Request: \$ 3.374 billion
Committee Mark: \$ 3.104 billion

KEY INVESTMENTS

Special Needs for 2008: Funding for the Legislative Branch is always at its highest in years of Presidential elections. Roughly, \$30 million of the total increase for the bill is due to costs associated with the Presidential Elections in 2008. This includes \$3.6 million for construction of inaugural facilities for the new President's swearing in and \$5 million for security costs incurred by the Capitol Police.

Capitol Police: \$286 million, \$30.4 million above 2007 and \$13 million below the request, for 10 new Library Police Officers, new employees to improve financial and administrative management, and \$5 million for a new radio system.

Architect of the Capitol: \$348 million, \$15.7 million above 2007 and \$46 million below the request with a special emphasis on funding health, safety and security improvements. This includes:

- **Inspector General:** Creates a much-needed Inspector General with seven full time staff, to oversee the Architect of the Capitol to improve financial and management practices.

- **Green the Capitol Initiative:** \$3.9 million for new initiatives for the House including: \$2.7 million to shift from coal to cleaner burning natural gas for heating needs, \$520,000 to switch to 100% renewable wind power for electrical needs, \$500,000 for an ethanol gas station for House automobiles, and \$100,000 for energy efficient compact florescent light bulbs.
- **Security Enhancements for Additional Office Space:** \$16 million for security enhancements to the FDA building to allow required improvements to historic House Office Buildings.

House of Representatives: \$1.2 billion, \$61 million above 2007 and \$36.5 million below the request including:

- **Members Representation Allowance:** \$581 million, \$26 million above 2007, for the annual budgets for Members Offices—a 4.7% increase.
- **House Child Care Center:** \$1 million, to expand the center to meet growing demand.
- **Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming:** \$2 million for the new panel as part of the Congress's commitment to address global climate change.

Library of Congress: \$572.5 million, \$64 million above 2007 and \$89 million below the request.

- **National Digital Information Infrastructure Program (NDIIP):** \$7.5 million to preserve digital maps, movies, sound recordings and data for future generations.
- **Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped:** \$68 million to provide services to 500,000 blind and physically handicapped patrons including the production and distribution of books and magazines in Braille and electronic media. This includes \$12.5 million for conversion to new digital talking books.

Office of Compliance: \$3.8 million, \$700,000 above 2007 and \$300,000 below the request, allowing them to conduct oversight of efforts to improve utility tunnel health and safety issues and to carry out the initial health and safety inspection of the Capitol Visitors Center.

- Includes a provision requiring agencies to reimburse the Treasury for any awards or settlements paid out for failure to comply with health and safety standards.
- Includes a provision allowing the Office to email congressional employees on their rights and responsibilities.

Congressional Budget Office: \$37.8 million, \$2.6 million above 2007, including funding to increase CBO's ability to analyze health care spending trends.

Government Printing Office: \$131 million, \$9 million above 2007 and \$51 million below the request for elevator repairs, fire alarm systems, and workforce retraining.

Government Accountability Office: \$503 million, \$22.5 million above 2007 and \$20 million below the request to help rebuild the agency's personnel levels and allow GAO to provide better support for Congressional oversight efforts.

Open World: \$6 million and directs that the program be transferred to the Department of State. An additional \$6 million is provided through the State Foreign Operations Subcommittee.

SIGNIFICANT CUTS

Joint Items: \$21.1 million, \$3 million below 2007 and equal to the request, for the Office of the Attending Physician, the Joint Economic Committee and the Joint Committee on Taxation, and the Capitol Guide Service - cut as delays in opening the Capitol Visitor Center mean additional staffing will not be required.

Capitol Visitors Center: \$27.5 million, \$16.3 million below 2007 for ongoing construction and operations.

House of Representatives: \$3.8 million is cut from four House administrative accounts.

Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 2771:

Harman (CA)/Upton (MI)/Inglis (SC)/Lipinski (IL): The amendment provides that none of the funds in the bill may be used to purchase light bulbs unless the light bulbs have the "ENERGY STAR" or "Federal Energy Management Program" designation. (10 minutes)

Flake (AZ): The amendment reduces funding for the Government Printing Office-Congressional Printing and Binding by \$3,200,000. (10 minutes)

Jordan (OH): The amendment reduces appropriations in the bill by 4% across the board. (10 minutes)

"Derive happiness in oneself from a good day's work, from illuminating the fog that surrounds us." -Henri Matisse